

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of the in this application:

Listing of Claims:

1 -11. (Cancelled)

12. (Currently Amended) A method for tracking a portable medical device that is movable to and reusable in a plurality of physical locations in connection with a plurality of patients and connectable with an electronic network having one or more access nodes, comprising:

determining the last access node used by a medical device and reporting the last used access node to a medication management unit that is remote from the medical device and connectable with the electronic network;

determining last known general physical location of the medical device based on the last access node used by the medical device as reported at the medication management unit;

displaying the last known general physical location of the medical device at a portable user access device that is located remotely from the medication management unit and the medical device, based on a report from the medication management unit;

~~proceeding with~~ moving the user access device to the last known general physical location of the medical device;

if, upon ~~proceeding with~~ moving the user access device to the last known general physical location of the medical device, the medical device is one of absent, commingled with other medical devices, and hidden from view such that the last access node used by the medical device as reported at the medication management unit is insufficient to determine ~~additional assistance is required to ascertain a the~~

then current and specific location of the medical device then:  
transmitting a request audio location alarm message from the user access device to the medication management unit;  
in response to receipt of the request audio location alarm message transmitting an order audio locator alarm message from the medication management unit to the medical device; and  
in response to receipt at the medical device of the order audio locator alarm message from the medication management unit activating and emitting a locator alarm at the then current and specific physical location of the medical device without regard for proximity to the user access device and current visibility status of the medical device.

13. -14. (Cancelled)

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, wherein the activating and emitting steps are executed using a medical device selected from a group of medical devices consisting of a medical pump, a diagnostic device, and a patient vital signs monitor.

16. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 12, further comprising the step of inserting a predetermined time delay prior to the activating and emitting steps in order to allow a searcher to travel to the last used access node.

17. (New) A method for tracking a portable medical device that is movable to and reusable in a plurality of physical locations in connection with a plurality of patients and connectable with an electronic network having one or more access nodes, comprising:

determining the last known general physical location of the medical device based on the last access node used by the medical device as reported at the medication

management unit;

displaying the last known general physical location of the medical device at a portable user access device that is located remotely from the medication management unit and the medical device, based on a report from the medication management unit;

moving the user access device to the last known general physical location of the medical device wherein the last access node used by the medical device as reported at the medication management unit is insufficient to determine the then current and specific location of the medical device;

transmitting a request for audible location assistance signal from the user access device to the medication management unit;

in response to receipt of the request for audible location assistance signal, transmitting an order for audible location assistance signal from the medication management unit to the medical device; and

in response to receipt at the medical device of the order for audible location assistance signal from the medication management unit activating and emitting a audible location assistance signal at the then current and specific physical location of the medical device without regard for proximity to the user access device and current visibility status of the medical device.